We are Hydropower Sustainability
IN THIS REPORT

Our annual report provides an overview of the work of the Hydropower Sustainability Council from October 2021 to September 2022.

The report describes and evaluates the success of the Hydropower Sustainability Secretariat against our Theory of Change.

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Message from the Chair

2021/22 was a big year for us, but we know the best is yet to come

This was a year of full of first steps and inaugurations. We saw the launch of the Hydropower Sustainability Standard, we celebrated the HS Council joining the ISEAL Alliance as a Community Member, and of course, we planned the Council’s roadmap to becoming an independent organisation.

It was also a period to gain our foothold in both the hydropower and sustainability spaces. Through multistakeholder collaboration, our organisation is demonstrating that they are not only compatible but mutually beneficial.

The next year will be dedicated to getting our first certifications against the Standard; further embedding it into financing requirements, government and company policies; building the capacity of governments and operators to implement; and continuing the roadmap to independence. We look forward to it.
Our Vision
Our vision is to enable a world where all hydropower projects foster healthy ecosystems, prosperous communities, resilient infrastructure and good governance.

Our Mission
We drive positive change in the hydropower sector by building knowledge, promoting accountability, empowering people and embedding sustainable practices.

Our Value Preposition
Sustainability delivers business value.
By working with us and using the hydropower Sustainability Standard.

Financiers
Reduce ESG risks with rigorous ESG requirements

Donors and Funders
Ensure every development dollar goes as far as it can

Affected Communities
Gain trust and an opportunity to engage in good faith

Owners and Developers
Improves projects and demonstrate commitment to sustainability
In a world that aims to provide enough food, water and electricity for a growing population, hydropower has a vital role to play.

Responsible projects can help governments decarbonise their electricity systems, increase the penetration of solar and wind energy, and support communities to meet their sustainable development objectives.

But irresponsible hydropower projects are no longer acceptable.

How can investors tell the good actors from the bad? How can developers address complex ESG issues? How can governments be sure that hydropower projects contribute to scaling up renewable energy?

By implementing the Hydropower Sustainability Standard.
Our Work

We certify projects to distinguish responsible projects, align with lenders’ requirements and unlock climate funding mechanisms.

We build capacity where it is most needed to improve hydropower in developing countries and enable a fair transition towards climate neutrality.

We offer training courses to all to raise awareness, train professionals and prepare decision makers.

We engage with companies, civil society, banks and governments to enable transparency, responsible investments and informed decision-making.
Our Governance

A Council to promote the integrity of the Hydropower Sustainability Standard

The Hydropower Sustainability (HS) Council is the multistakeholder governance body of the Hydropower Sustainability Certification System.

The HS Council includes representatives of social, community and environmental organisations, developed and developing country governments, financial institutions and the hydropower sector.

Council members participate in a democratic process to elect representatives to speak for their stakeholder group on the HS Governance Committee.

The Council ensures multistakeholder input and confidence in the content quality, relevance and assurance of the Hydropower Sustainability Certification System.

Click here to learn more about the Council, Committee and Secretariat.
Our Governance

A Council to promote the integrity of the Hydropower Sustainability Standard

Dr Jürgen Schuol, Voith

“I am happy and honored to represent my company and my Chamber on the multistakeholder HSGC and thus to support and promote the global uptake of sustainable hydropower.”

Elisa Xiao, New Development Bank

“I am on the Committee because I want to contribute to the sustainable hydropower community.”

Kimberly Lyon, The World Bank

“So much has been learned over the decades on how to do hydropower in a way that is more inclusive, more resilient, and with greater emphasis on environmental stewardship. Now, we have our work cut out for us to make sure those lessons are implemented in a greater share of projects worldwide.”
We are here to make an impact
The Theory of Change outlines the plan to work towards and ultimately seek to achieve the vision of a sustainable hydropower sector. It defines desired impacts and maps out the pathways needed to achieve them.

The Theory of Change also provides a guiding framework to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Hydropower Sustainability Certification System. It allows understanding of the causal relationships between activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts.

Based on these causal chains, key performance indicators help monitor progress and gain insight into how systems can be improved over time.

These standard-setting processes are driven by three intervention spheres: Policy, Promotion and Practice.

The 3-Ps aim to embed good practice in hydropower policy and incentivise higher performance in project development by focusing on clear strategies.

These are intended to bring about increased adoption of the HS Standard, greater transparency and inclusivity in the Certification System, and increased trust in sustainable hydropower.

The success of our Theory of Change reflects the progress of our mission and the realisation of our vision.
## Intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>S1</th>
<th>Instigate a Cultural Shift in hydropower companies and electricity off-takers towards sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Embed the Standard in financial requirements of financiers and green bond issuers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>Position the Standard at the core of Government’s regulation and policy design for hydropower and energy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion</td>
<td>S4</td>
<td>Implement proactive communications and social media presence to increase knowledge about and engagement with the Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S5</td>
<td>Collaborate with the scientific community to promote state-of-the-art knowledge in hydropower sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S6</td>
<td>Incentivise, recognise and acknowledge higher sustainability performance through prizes, labels and healthy peer competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>S7</td>
<td>Implement an independent and evidence-based certification process supported by a comprehensive assurance system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S8</td>
<td>Maintain performance requirements that are up-to-date based on state-of-the-art knowledge and science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S9</td>
<td>Guarantee transparent reporting and consultation on assessment results and standard-setting processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S10</td>
<td>Institute an open multistakeholder governance built on the basic principles of partnership, consensus building and conflict avoidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Outputs

| Boards, CEOs and compliance officers engage in the cultural transition towards sustainability through application of the Standard |
| Electricity off-takers require their renewable energy sources to be certified as sustainable |
| Developers, operators and state-owned utilities incorporate the sustainability principles of the Standard in internal policies |
| Issuers, development banks, commercial banks and institutional investors adopt the Standard as their core requirements |
| Leading international organisations (e.g. IEA, IRENA, UNEP) recognise the Standard as the leading framework to assess hydropower sustainability |
| Governments and national regulators refer to the Standard in hydropower policy and wider energy guidance |

## Outcomes

- Increased adoption of sustainability principles in hydropower through embedding in company systems, financial mechanisms and government policies
- Increased knowledge and trust in hydropower sustainability through proactive and evidence-based communications
- Greater transparency and inclusivity in the hydropower sector through multistakeholder governance and good faith consultation

## Vision and Impacts

### Healthy Ecosystems
- Projects contribute to restore ecosystems and invest in forest, river and other ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Projects apply the mitigation hierarchy to support biodiversity conservation and preservation
- Projects maintain local ecosystem services and values
- Projects manage impacts to ecosystems, such as erosion and sedimentation, responsibly

### Prosperous Communities
- Projects engage in good faith with affected communities
- Projects respect the dignity and human rights of affected communities
- Projects improve the livelihoods and living standards of affected communities
- Projects share their benefits with affected communities

### Resilient Infrastructure
- Projects demonstrate their ability to respond to the effects of climate change
- Projects take into account regional water needs and availability
- Projects contribute to wider adaptation strategies and flexible grid operations
- Projects protect communities and the environment from the consequences of dam failure and other infrastructure safety risks

### Good Governance
- Projects are governed by sound corporate business structures
- Projects implement ethical and transparent policies and practices
- Projects treat their workers fairly and respectfully
- Projects contribute to wider development strategies and national planning

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A world where all hydropower projects enable
12% of IHA members (10 companies) already committed to impose the application of the Standard in their organisation.

UNIDO is collaborating with the HS Council in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding.

One insurance company and one development bank explicitly encourage their clients to use the Standard in their projects.

The first three projects have started their certification process. Five more confirmed interest to certify in 2023.

Governments of Colombia, Mozambique and Indonesia are cooperating with the HS Secretariat to inform national policy on sustainable hydropower.

One hydropower company is pursuing both CBI and HS Standard certification, potentially for 22 projects.

RE100, a joint initiative by Climate Group and CDP, recommends the HS Standard as the go-to international certification system to prove sustainability in hydropower.
Influence Through Promotion

2021/22 highlights of our work to increase knowledge and trust in hydropower sustainability through proactive and evidence-based communications:

Seven developers publicly committed to certifying their projects using the HS Standard.

3,312 people are subscribed to receive sustainability news and offers.

New partnership with Low Impact Hydropower Institute strengthens the message that it is possible to develop sustainable and low impact hydropower projects.

Close collaboration with Academia, with the University of Cambridge (UK), University of Toronto (Canada), EPFL (Switzerland) and NTNU (Norway)

55,000 website visits on hyrosustainability.org, with the HS Standard page being the 3rd most visited page.

Strengthened engagement with HS Council members and groups through newsletters, surveys and meetings.

View Detailed Activities and Results here
A new organisation, independent from the International Hydropower Association, is being established to govern a thriving and independent HS Standard, and to promote diversity and representation in the sector.

305 hydropower and energy professionals were trained by the HS Secretariat and know how to apply the HS Standard in their projects.

New Conflict of Interest policy developed to protect the legitimacy of the HS Council and promote fairness and transparency across its operations.

ISEAL Alliance recognised the Hydropower Sustainability Standard as the first sustainability mechanism in the hydropower space to become an ISEAL Community Member.

New monitoring and evaluation system to guarantee our theory of change is being successfully implemented.

HS Standard translations into Spanish and Russian under development, following a new translation verification process.
Tajikistan has immense hydropower potential, which, if developed effectively and sustainably, can provide green, accessible and reliable electricity to the region.

To unlock Tajikistan’s hydropower potential and bring electricity to remote areas of the country, the Hydropower Sustainability Council and Pamir Energy with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) have devised a programme aimed at strengthening in-country resources and improving ownership of good practices in sustainable hydropower. The aim is to equip national and regional stakeholders with appropriate tools, skills and resources.

Tajikistan relies heavily on hydropower for energy supply. Nearly 90% of Tajikistan’s electricity comes from hydropower and the National Development Strategy established achieving energy independence by 2030 as one of its priority policy objectives. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources is targeting an increase in total generated capacity to 10 GW by 2030, doubling from the current 5.7 GW.

The outcome of the programme is for hydropower in Tajikistan to be planned and developed more sustainably, and to provide a common language for key decision-makers and communities to discuss sustainability issues in the country.
Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) is Malaysia’s largest renewable energy developer and has been working with the Hydropower Sustainability Secretariat since 2013 to strengthen sustainable hydropower development in the region and uphold its longstanding commitment to supplying clean and reliable electricity to power the state of Sarawak.

With an installed capacity of 6,275 MW, Malaysia has only developed about 18% of its total hydropower potential. Plans to explore and expand the country’s potential are already underway, and companies like Sarawak Energy are taking the necessary steps to ensure that this is done in a way that provides net positive gains for people and the environment.

Since the inception of the partnership between the HS Secretariat and SEB, a total of seven internal and official sustainability assessments have been carried out across three different hydropower projects, with three more currently in the planning stage. Of these, four assessments were carried out internally by SEB staff who received formal training by IHAS on the Hydropower Sustainability Tools.

In fact, Sarawak Energy staff includes a total of 75 Certified Users of the Hydropower Sustainability Tools and 23 Internal Assessors – a record amongst the whole industry.
As two big players in the hydropower sustainability space that share the common goal of building a more responsible sector, the HS Council and LIHI have decided to work on a plan that will ensure that their respective sustainability mechanisms progress in a way that is complementary and mutually beneficial.

Both entities own certification systems governed by multistakeholder groups comprised of representatives from NGOs, financial institutions, industry and more, which are aimed at recognising responsible and sustainable hydropower development and operation.

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) is a key player in hydropower sustainability in the United States, with its longstanding commitment to reducing the impacts of hydropower generation through its outcome and science-based Hydropower Certification Program.

Similarly, through its Hydropower Sustainability Standard, the Hydropower Sustainability Council aims to certify hydropower projects around the world that have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability by meeting and exceeding international good practice.
ISEAL is a membership organisation that recognises and supports ambitious sustainability systems and their partners in tackling the world’s most pressing challenges.

As an ISEAL Community Member, the Council joins a growing number of initiatives working to demonstrate their commitment to driving positive change around the world.

As the largest source of renewable energy in the world, hydropower has a pivotal role to play in the clean energy transition. But, as with any large infrastructure project, hydropower can have significant environmental and social impacts if left unchecked and unregulated. This is where the HS Standard comes in.

Through community membership of ISEAL, the Hydropower Sustainability Council will continue improving the Standard, keeping up to date with the latest developments in sustainability accreditation and learning from its peers in the ISEAL community.
The Hydropower Sustainability Secretariat has collaborated with strategic donors to promote sustainable hydropower globally.

With the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Secretariat launched a long-term initiative in partner countries to strengthen in-country resources and ownership of good practice in sustainable hydropower. The Hydropower Sustainability ESG Assessment Fund (HESG) enabled the assessment of several projects globally.

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) funded capacity building in Mozambique and Nepal, leading to the assessment of a hydropower project in Mozambique that’s now working towards sustainable operation. In Nepal, Norad’s program led to better access to information and resources, strengthened institutional capacity, and increased sustainability issue identification and monitoring.

The Secretariat and World Bank partnered to train Nepalese hydropower professionals in sustainability in 2022, solidifying their continued collaboration with the Hydropower Sustainability Tools and Standard.
Our Finances
Our Finances

**Total Net Income**
£400,000
63% more than previous year

Training income was in line with expectations and was 60% higher than the previous year.

**Operating Result**
-£25,000

No certifications using the Hydropower Sustainability Standard.

**Operating Expenses**
£425,000
Including £89,000 FX gains

The transition to independence brought overspends on legal and travel costs, offset by savings in staff costs and foreign exchange gains.

**Total Current Assets**
£974,000

Although travel restrictions were lifted, donor funded work was again delayed (partly due to the impact of the Ukraine war).
Our Theory of Change

Total Net Income
£400,000
63% more than previous year

Operating Expenses*
£514,000

*Excluding £89,000 FX gains

- 74.3% Staff Salaries
- 12.3% Legal and Professional
- 9.2% Administration
- 3.5% Travel and Subsistence
- 0.3% Communications
- 0.3% Finance

30% Training Academy
70% Project Income

Read our financial report here
Detailed Activities & Results

Annual Report 2021/22 - Annex
**Intervention**

**Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>S1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instigate a Cultural Shift in hydropower companies and electricity offtakers towards sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outputs**

Boards, CEOs and compliance officers engage in the cultural transition towards sustainability through application of the Standard.

### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S1.1</th>
<th>S1.2</th>
<th>S1.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embedded the HS Standard requirements in the Sustainability Disclosure Form to be submitted by all IHA members</td>
<td>Conducted regular meetings, outreach emails and webinars with IHA members and hydropower developers</td>
<td>Conducted high level discussions about the application of the Standard in IHA board meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25% of IHA members</td>
<td>12% of IHA board members (10 companies) committed to impose the application of the Standard in their organisation</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Reinforce engagement with IHA members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (Sarawak Energy Berhad)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monitoring

### Results

**The following Manufacturers and suppliers have:**

- GE Renewables (CEO Pascal Radue) committed to work only with companies that fully comply with the HS Standard requirements
- Carpi Tech (MD Alberto M. Scuero) committed to support only projects aligned with HS Standard good practice
- VOITH (CEO Uwe Weinhardt) encourages project owners to demonstrate sustainability through HS Standard certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The following companies have made CEO-level commitments to apply the HS Standard in their assets:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Landsvirkjun, Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hydro Quebéc, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- EDF, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Engie-Brasil,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sarawak Energy Berhad, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ILI Group, Great Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SPIC-Brasil, Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Intervention**

Policy

**Strategies**

S1

Instigate a Cultural Shift in hydropower companies and electricity offtakers towards sustainability

**Outputs**

Electricity offtakers require their renewable energy sources to be certified as sustainable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1.4</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>1 electricity offtaker</td>
<td>1 electricity offtaker, member of RE100 organisation, requires their hydropower energy sources to be certified</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Expand direct engagement to a wider number of offtakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 PPAs that formally require project certification</td>
<td>There are no Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) that require the certification of a hydropower project yet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 developers/owners report they pursued certification to meet the current (or potential future) requirements of an electricity offtaker</td>
<td>1 hydropower developer reports they are pursuing certification to meet the requirements of an electricity offtaker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

- RE100, a global initiative bringing together the world’s most influential businesses committed to 100% renewable power, only recognises renewable electricity from hydropower that proves its sustainability through third-party certification with the Hydropower Sustainability Standard (outside of North America). As an example, an offtaker from Singapore (member of RE100) is requiring an IHA member to certify all their hydropower projects as a condition to do business.

- The HS Secretariat supported the development of the Green Hydrogen Standard, which is closely aligned with the HS Standard, providing a clear link between Certified Hydropower Projects and Certified Green Hydrogen Projects.

- Sarawak Energy Berhad, Sarawak Malaysia is currently pursuing certification to meet the requirements of an electricity offtaker.
## Interventions, Strategies, and Outputs

### Policy

**S1** Instigate a Cultural Shift in hydropower companies and electricity offtakers towards sustainability.

### Outputs

Developers, operators and state-owned utilities incorporate the sustainability principles of the Standard in internal policies.

### Activities, Baseline, Target, Monitoring, Status, Actions 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1.5</td>
<td>Engage directly with developers, operators and state-owned utilities (via donor-funded projects) to support them in understanding sustainability principles</td>
<td>1 (Sarawak Energy Berhad)</td>
<td>25% of IHA members</td>
<td>5 developers, operators or state-owned (6% IHA members) utilities are incorporating the sustainability principles of the Standard in internal policies. These include organisations in all the target countries</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Reinforce engagement with IHA members and continue the successful delivery of capacity building programmes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

- Sarawak Energy Berhad (Sarawak Malaysia) continues to embed the HS Standard in their internal procedures and aims to certify multiple hydropower assets, while maintaining regular staff training on the use of the Standard.
- EPM (Colombia), Pamir Energy (Tajikistan), KESH (Albania), GMNK (Mozambique) and Bappenas (Indonesia) are currently the beneficiary of a long-term capacity building programme delivered by the HS Secretariat to embed the HS Standard in their internal processes.
- Landsvirkjun (Iceland) is planning to certify a project in 2023 and embed the HS Standard in their internal procedures.
### Activity Table

| S2.1 | Identified key insurance companies (e.g. Swiss Re), banks (e.g Triodos Bank), export credit agencies (e.g. OECD), and commercial financing institutions in Nepal with the support of the Dutch Development Bank FMO |
| S2.2 | Started engagement with the financial institutions identified above. Examples include participation in OECD’s 8th Practitioners from Financial Institutions Workshop, participation in the consultation of the WWF’s guide for insurers, and meetings with commercial banks in Nepal |
| S2.3 | Started engagement with a Nepalese financial institutions supported by the government of Nepal (HIDCL) to strengthen their capacity to assess ESG risks in their national hydropower investments |
| S2.4 | Established close engagement with Climate Bonds Initiative in Latin America through regular meetings and multiple joint webinars with hydropower developers with assets in Brazil and Portugal. Pursued closer engagement with the Climate Bonds Initiative CEO and IHA CEO |

### Monitoring Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S2.1</td>
<td>1 Green Bond Issuer (Climate Bonds Initiative)</td>
<td>1 Development Bank</td>
<td>1 insurance company encourages their clients to use the Standard in their projects</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Reinforce engagement with insurance companies to go from encouragement to enforcement to use the HS Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2.2</td>
<td>1 Development Bank (World Bank encourages the use of the Standard)</td>
<td>1 Commercial Bank</td>
<td>1 Development Bank encourages the use of the HS Standard</td>
<td></td>
<td>Identify further commercial financial institutions that would benefit from a strengthened ESG framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2.3</td>
<td>0 projects that pursued CBI and HS Standard Certification</td>
<td>2 Projects achieve CBI and HS Standard Certification</td>
<td>1 hydropower company proponents pursues both CBI and HS Standard certification, potentially</td>
<td></td>
<td>Continue supporting the developer pursuing both CBI and HS Standard certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2.4</td>
<td>1 insurance company encourages their clients to use the Standard in their projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthen engagement with CBI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Results

- Insurance company Swiss Re has included a reference to the HS Standard in their 2022 ESG Risk Framework. It encourages all their clients to pursue it.
- WWF’s report “Insurer’s guide to Hydropower” refers to the HS Standard as the go-to requirement for hydropower projects.
- The World Bank (ESMAP) supported a training programme for Nepalese stakeholders, including government, private sector, banks and academia, to set expectations around the HS Standard requirements and their alignment with the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework.
- Eletrobras (Brazil) is currently pursuing Climate Bond Initiative bonds certification for 22 projects in Brazil. The plan is to start assessing the projects with the HS Standard in 2023.
- The first 3 projects have started their certification process. 5 more confirmed interest on getting certified in 2023.
### Interventions

**Policy**

**S3** Position the Standard at the core of Government’s regulation and policy design for hydropower and energy

### Outputs

Leading international organisations (e.g. IEA, IRENA, UNEP) recognise the Standard as the leading framework to assess hydropower sustainability

### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S3.1</th>
<th>Participate in the IEA working group for the development of a sustainability framework for all renewables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S3.2</td>
<td>Support HSGC Chair in the engagement with international organisations (e.g. UN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3.3</td>
<td>Joint publication with a leading international organisation (general Standard or specific sustainability aspect, e.g. Indigenous peoples)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Baseline

1. International Energy Agency Statement

### Target

- Public statement by the UNHRC Rapporteurs on Human Rights
- Public Statement by UNOPS

### KPI

UNIDO is developing a public joint statement with the HS Council

### Status

Partially achieved

### Actions 2023

Focus on further developing the collaboration with UNIDO and complete a Joint Statement

### Results

- UNIDO is collaborating with the HS Council in the development of a Joint Declaration or Memorandum of Understanding. This official collaboration is expected to strengthen the HS Council reputation among other UN bodies and other international organisations
### Policy

**S3** Position the Standard at the core of Government’s regulation and policy design for hydropower and energy

### Outputs

Governments and national regulators refer to the Standard in hydropower policy and wider energy guidance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S3.4</strong> Work with governments and regulators to build capacity and embed the Standard in national regulations:</td>
<td><strong>Baseline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) In low-income and lower-middle income countries, via donor-funded projects</td>
<td>Zero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) In high-income countries, via IHA network (focus on re-licencing existing facilities)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

- The Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia is cooperating with the HS Secretariat in the development of the Colombia guidelines on Sustainable Hydropower. This document will be used to inform national policy in the country around the development of sustainable hydropower and should include the HS Standard requirements as its technical basis.
- The Indonesian Ministry for National Planning (Bappenas) is collaborating with the HS Secretariat to embed HS Standard requirements in national policy - for hydropower as well as other multipurpose dams (irrigations, water supply, etc.)
### Intervention

**Promotion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement proactive communications and social media presence to increase knowledge about and engagement with the Standard</td>
<td>Sustainable hydropower is viewed as a key part of the renewable energy transition alongside wind and solar energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public opinion on hydropower shifts towards sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Activities

| S4.1 | Initiated development of new, redesigned and improved website Improved HS Training Academy website with clearer training options |
| S4.2 | Defined a new identity for the new independent organisation and started developing the communications strategy for the new independent organisation |
| S4.3 | Designed a stakeholder map and engagement tracking system |
| S4.4 | Engaged with NGOs/civil society, namely WWF, to align the message around sustainable hydropower |
| S4.5 | Engaged with other ISEAL Standards (e.g. Alliance for Water Stewardship), as with the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) to align the message around reputation and transparency |

### Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S4.1</td>
<td>1 International Energy Agency Statement</td>
<td>Public statement by the UNHRC Rapporteurs on Human Rights</td>
<td>UNIDO is developing a public joint statement with the HS Council</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Finalise design and launch new website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4.2</td>
<td>Designed a stakeholder map and engagement tracking system</td>
<td>Public Statement by UNOPS</td>
<td>55,000 page views on our website</td>
<td></td>
<td>Run fundraising campaigns to source additional funding to increase Standard recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4.3</td>
<td>Zero news articles that portray certified hydropower projects as sustainable (referring to the Standard), or recognise the Standard legitimacy</td>
<td>Multiple articles in several media outlets</td>
<td>ISEAL press release portrays the HS Standard as the first of its kind in the ISEAL community (energy Standard)</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Prepare marketing and communication packages for certified projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4.4</td>
<td>Zero fundraising campaigns</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joint press release articles that portray certified hydropower projects as sustainable (referring to the Standard), or recognise the Standard legitimacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare press releases for upcoming MoUs with UNIDO and LIHI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The first fundraising campaign is under preparation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Strategies</td>
<td>Outputs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion</td>
<td>Implement proactive communications and social media presence to increase knowledge about and engagement with the Standard</td>
<td>Sustainable hydropower is viewed as a key part of the renewable energy transition alongside wind and solar energy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defined a new identity for the upcoming independent entity – Hydropower Sustainability Alliance</td>
<td>Public opinion on hydropower shifts towards sustainability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drafted a new communications plan for the HS Alliance – to be published in May 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

- ISEAL press release announced the HS Standard as the first of its kind in the ISEAL community (energy Standard)
- Joint HS Council-Low Impact Hydropower Institute announcement strengthens the message that it is possible to develop sustainable and low impact hydropower projects. Both entities own certification systems governed by multistakeholder groups comprised of representatives from NGOs, financial institutions, industry
- Defined a new identity for the upcoming independent entity – Hydropower Sustainability Alliance
- Drafted a new communications plan for the HS Alliance – to be published in May 2023
### Promotion

**S5**

Collaborate with the scientific community to promote state-of-the-art knowledge in hydropower sustainability

### Outputs

Hydropower communications are clear, objective and based on up-to-date scientific knowledge and academic literature

### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S5.1</th>
<th>Collaborated with universities and think tanks through meetings, lectures, support and research projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S5.1</td>
<td>Multiple references to the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol and HESG</td>
<td>Multiple references to the Hydropower sustainability Standard</td>
<td>Number of references in scientific articles</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Continue engaging with Universities and pursue collaboration to make sure the HS Standard is up-to-date on scientific knowledge and academic literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No formal engagement (e.g. MoU with Universities)</td>
<td>Formal engagement (e.g. MoU) with one University</td>
<td>The Hydropower Sustainability Standard as a good practice reference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HS Standard as a reference for sustainable hydropower good practice requirement in one training course</td>
<td>Ongoing collaborations with 3 universities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

- Collaboration with the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom – supporting the MPhil on Engineering for Sustainable Development in the draft of a scoping report on sustainability frameworks for all renewables, based on the HS Standard
- Collaboration with the University of Toronto, Canada – annual lecture on the HS Standard, part of the “Renewal of Waterpower Facilities” course for PhD and MSc students
- Collaboration with NTNU (Norwegian University on Science and Technology), Norway – supporting PhD students research
**Intervention**

**Promotion**

**Strategies**

- S6: Incentivise, recognise and acknowledge higher sustainability performance through prizes, labels and healthy peer competition

**Outputs**

- Industry peers encourage one another to get certified and publish results in the public domain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
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<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S6.1</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>25 developers/owners publicly communicate their commitment to certify their projects</td>
<td>7 developers/owners publicly communicate their commitment to certify their projects</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Complete the marketing toolkit, along with the new communications plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S6.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 developers/owners report they pursue certification following a referral from an industry peer</td>
<td>Zero developers/owners report they pursue certification following a referral from an industry peer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

- Started development of a marketing toolkit for certified hydropower projects, as part of the new communications plan
- 7 developers/owners publicly committed to certify their projects. Note that the first certified projects are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2023
- 3,312 people have subscribed to receive sustainability news
- Marketing and social media toolkit developed for Certified Users
### Intervention

**Practice**

S7. Implement an independent and evidence-based certification process supported by a comprehensive assurance system

### Strategies

Certification against the Standard is based on a systematic and evidence-based assessment methodology conducted by independent accredited assessors

### Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S7.1</td>
<td>Developed a Monitoring and Evaluation system for the Standard</td>
<td>6 Certified User Training Courses</td>
<td>New Monitoring and Evaluation Tool completed</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Continue delivering training courses to increase the numbers of certified users and active accredited assessors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S7.2</td>
<td>Strengthened engagement with Accredited Assessors through more regular meetings and informal calls</td>
<td>6 G-Res Training Courses</td>
<td>2 formal meetings with, and multiple informal meetings with Accredited Assessors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S7.3</td>
<td>Through the Hydropower Sustainability Training Academy, provided Certified User, Accredited Assessor, Sustainability and G-res training courses</td>
<td>3 Accreditation Training Courses</td>
<td>All 4 HSGC meetings were attended by Accredited Assessors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S7.4</td>
<td>Targeted consultancies active in hydropower projects and strengthen relationship to increase the pool of accredited assessors as well as references to the Standard in the outputs they produce</td>
<td>12 technical short courses designed and delivered</td>
<td>Number of courses delivered: 6 Certified User, 5 G-Res, 2 Accreditation, 12 Certified Hydropower Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management Entity’s Annual Report and Quarterly Newsletter</td>
<td>Quarterly meetings with Accredited Lead Assessors</td>
<td>2 consultancies trained new accredited assessors or certified users</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quarterly meetings with Accredited Lead Assessors</td>
<td>Accredited Assessors represented in all HSGC meetings</td>
<td>2 new consultancies train their staff to become accredited assessors or certified users</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Updates identified in the monitoring system</td>
<td>2 new consultancies train their staff to become accredited assessors or certified users</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Detailed Activities & Results | Practice**
Intervention Strategies Outputs

Practice S7 Implement an independent and evidence-based certification process supported by a comprehensive assurance system Certification against the Standard is based on a systematic and evidence-based assessment methodology conducted by independent accredited assessors

Results

- A total of 305 hydropower and energy professionals know how to use the HS Standard:
  1. 6 Certified User Training Courses delivered (117 Certified Users of the HS Standard)
  2. 5 G-Res Training Courses (23 Certified G-res Users)
  3. 2 Accreditation Training Courses – in-person in London, UK and in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (2 new accredited assessors, 12 internal accredited assessors in Sarawak)
  4. 12 Certified Hydropower Sustainability training courses - designed and delivered virtually to stakeholders in Nepal (51 certified participants and 39 observers)

- Quarterly meetings with Accredited Assessors (2 meetings held)
- Accredited Assessors representation formalised in all HSGC meetings
- Updates identified in the monitoring system – Actions 2023
- 1 new consultancy and 1 new bank train their staff to become accredited assessors or certified users (European Investment Bank, Entura)
## Intervention

**S8** Maintain performance requirements that are up to date based on state-of-the-art knowledge and science

## Outputs

Certification against the Standard is based on a systematic and evidence-based assessment methodology conducted by independent accredited assessors.

## Activities

| S8.1 | Held regular meetings with NGO representatives, think tanks and sustainability experts in addressing the Standard's technical issues |
| S8.2 | Conducted review to identify issues with the standard process, namely conflict of Interest and consultation process |

## Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous working groups on FPIC and Protected Areas</td>
<td>Identification and management system for technical issues in place</td>
<td>Number of meetings with NGOs</td>
<td>Partially Achieved</td>
<td>Continue meeting with NGOs, and monitoring and identifying improvement opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Results

- Discussion with WWF on sedimentation issues
- Discussions with WWF on insurance for hydropower
- Reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy, in line with ISEAL requirements
- Started a review to improve the HS Standard assessment consultation form
### Practice

**S9**  
Guarantee transparent reporting and consultation on assessment results and standard-setting processes

### Outputs

Project-affected communities, civil society and NGOs use the public consultation system integrated in the assessment methodology to provide comments and resolve potential grievances

### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actions 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S9.1</td>
<td>Design a data collection system for claims, etc</td>
<td>No claim management system</td>
<td>Claim management system in place</td>
<td>Claim management system in place</td>
<td>Partially Achieved</td>
<td>Verify the Spanish and Russian translations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S9.2</td>
<td>Translate the Standard (and guidance documents) into several languages</td>
<td>No claim management system</td>
<td>Claim management system in place</td>
<td>So far there are zero claims filed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Translate the Standard into 2 more languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S9.3</td>
<td>Translate the website into several languages</td>
<td>No claim management system</td>
<td>Claim management system in place</td>
<td>There are two translation in the process of completion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

- Data collection system for claims under development
- Standard translation procedure revised and updated
- Standard document translated to Spanish and Russian, though not yet verified under the newly developed procedure
Guarantee transparent reporting and consultation on assessment results and standard-setting processes

The effectiveness of the Standard is guaranteed through systematic monitoring and adaptive management

## Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S9.4</td>
<td>Design a monitoring system with KPIs and an adaptive management process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S9.5</td>
<td>Pursue ISEAL certification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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<th>Target</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S9.4</td>
<td>No monitoring system</td>
<td>Monitoring system in place and systematically updated</td>
<td>Monitoring system in place and systematically updated</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Continue meeting ISEAL requirements to become code compliant after a 3-year period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S9.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>ISEAL Community Member</td>
<td>HS Council is an ISEAL Community Member</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Results

- New Monitoring and evaluation system designed and approved, with clear key performance indicators, baseline, target, means of verification and external factors
- HS Council is now an ISEAL Community Member, the first sustainability mechanism in the energy space to become a member
### Intervention

**Practice**

**S10** Institute an open multistakeholder governance built on the basic principles of partnership, consensus building and conflict avoidance

### Outputs

The Standard's governance is multistakeholder and includes broad and diverse representation

### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S10.1</td>
<td>Conducted a thorough review of the Standard's governance to ensure it is fit for purpose in the transition to an independent</td>
<td>Current multistakeholder governance council in place</td>
<td>Standard governance includes stakeholders from civil society, governments, financial institutions and industry</td>
<td>New HS Council governance structure ensure stakeholder representation</td>
<td>Partially Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S10.2</td>
<td>Seek ongoing legal advice to support claims and any liability issues</td>
<td>No legal advisor</td>
<td>Standard governance include more representation from low and middle income countries</td>
<td>No system to promote ensure diversity of stakeholders represented in the Standard governance (country, gender, ethnicity, organisation)</td>
<td>A legal advisor is consulted to support the organisation and certification scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S10.3</td>
<td>Promote more representation from low and middle income countries in the governance structure</td>
<td></td>
<td>A legal advisor is contracted to review and manage all legal aspects of the certification scheme</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

- Standards governance reviewed by independent consultant
- The IHA Board and the HS Governance Committee have approved a roadmap for an independence governance. In other words, a new organisation, independent from the International Hydropower Association, is being established to manage and promote a thriving and independent HS Standard
- New HS Council governance structure designed and under implementation
- Legal advice underway to support transition to independence, support claims and liability issues